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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Liu et al.

Serial No. 10/617,309

Filed July 10, 2003

SPINAL IMPLANT METHOD AND
CUTTING TOOL PREPARATION
ACCESSORY FOR MOUNTING THE
IMPLANT

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) Examiner
) Barrett
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) Art Unit
) 3738
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
SUBMITTED UNDER 35 USC §121

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Communication dated December 15, 2004, please consider the following. This Response is being submitted on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 as the one-month deadline fell on a weekend and the following day, Monday, January 17, 2005, was a US Patent & Trademark Office holiday.

Additionally, please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary, and charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but do not include payment of issue fees that are or may become due.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **first class mail** in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

January 18, 2005

(Date of Deposit)

James B. Myers

Name of Registered Representative

James B. Myers

Signature

January 18, 2005

Date of Signature